

REMARKS

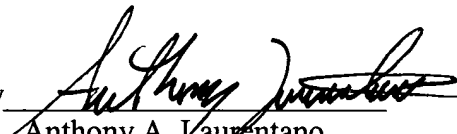
Applicants amend claims 1-7 to address minor matters of form, and to correct minor grammatical errors. Applicants withdraw claims 8-11 and add new claims 12 and 13, which depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively. The new claims recite a controller for controlling the liquid exhaust mechanism. The amendments and new claims introduce no new matter.

The Examiner sets forth on page 2 of the Office Action that the present invention can be divided into two separate patentably distinct groups: Group I, drawn to humidifiers for a fuel cell, and encompassing claims 1-7; and Group II, drawn to a fuel cell system, and encompassing claim 8-11. The Examiner states that the two Groups are distinct from one for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants elect the invention of Group I, encompassing claims 1-7, and new claims 12 and 13.

Applicants deem this Response to be fully responsive to the Office Action, and reiterate the election of the Group I set of claims (e.g., claims 1-7 and new claims 12 and 13). If further issues regarding the restriction persist, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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